

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/5320/DCVD/JW

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 21, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 21, 2002. Claims 1-24 are pending and stand rejected. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-3 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,076,205 to *Vowles, et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,022,185 to *Mokuo*.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 13-19, 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vowles, et al.* and *Mokuo* as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,611,861 to *Higashi*.

Claims 6, 10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vowles, et al.*, *Mokuo* and *Higashi* as applied to claims 4, 5 7 and 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,854,611 to *Press*.

Applicants have amended the base claims to more clearly recite aspects of the invention, obviating the rejections. More specifically, Applicants have amended the base claims to include the limitation that the first and second chambers are disposed on a common side of a transfer chamber and that the second chamber is adjustable relative to the transfer chamber so that the robot can position the wafers with a preselected degree of accuracy onto the respective platforms for efficient processing of the wafers.

The references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed invention, as amended. Applicants submit that these amendments do not constitute new matter and do not necessitate a new search. Accordingly, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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